

From: Bill Bremer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 11:18pm
Subject: Re: U.S. v. Microsoft: Settlement Information

I see the proposed "settlement" which Microsoft has offered as no settlement at all... and does nothing to stop Microsoft from continuing the ruthless practices which brought them to the attention of the Federal Courts in the first place.

I honestly can't believe the Microsoft co. actually thinks this is a fair settlement of their case... or if so, then only fair for Microsoft... In no way does their offer to put old computers, using only their products, recompense the software developers they shafted, or the public, whose access to these alternative products they have tried to deny...

I think that if Microsoft's proposal of a billion dollars was to be considered at all, then the only fair thing for the public, would be to have a cash only deal, no strings attached, to the school-systems chosen to participate in the proposed settlement. Then the school systems themselves could choose which computer systems and which software they would prefer to actually use, instead of having no choice in the matter at all.

Giving "no choice" seems to be the "Microsoft Way", after all.

I believe that Microsoft sees this as another way for them to weasel their way into the pockets of the American public. This time through the children in some of the poorest schools in our country...

Schools, which given a "Choice", might very well not wish to be using the products foisted upon them, by a company whose tarnished reputation is not exactly what they would be wishing to present to their classes every day.

I believe this is just a very transparent attempt by Microsoft to to gain market share in one of the few remaining areas in which it doesn't already dominate. As long as Microsoft is the one who is to set the rules on how the proposed settlement money is doled out, then there will never be a "fair" conclusion to this case.

Secondly,

I see no way that the proposed settlement makes any amends to the software developers and other companies which were harmed by their overly aggressive and unlawful business practices.

If fair was fair, then these are some of the ones who should be making suggestions as to what steps should be taken to make sure that this company is not allowed to continue the practices which brought them to the attention of the courts in the first place...

Finally...

I don't believe that a defendant found guilty, should be the one turned to, when it comes time to suggest either a penalty or a remedy.

Thank you...
Bill Bremer
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